

## REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 10 and 13 are amended and claim 14 added. Claim 12 is cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciate the indication of claims 12 and 13 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,869) in view of Yokota, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,530). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the allowable features of claim 12. Applicant respectfully submits that no new issues are presented with the incorporation of allowable subject matter of claim 12 into claim 10. Applicant notes that claim 10 recites similar features to claim 1 and thus the added allowable subject matter of claim 12 into claim 10 should place claim 10 in condition for allowance. Examination of the subject matter of both claims 10 and 12 has previously been performed, thus no new issues have been presented. Thus, applicant respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10 are now in condition for allowance as well as their dependent claims 2-9 and 13. Therefore, the rejection with regard to these claims is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding added claim 14, this claim is drawn to the features recited in claims 1 and 7 prior to the amendment to claim 1. Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, wherein an image of a region larger than a photographic region confirmed by a photographer is formed on said image sensor element in accordance with missing of pixels which is caused as a result of the correction by said lens characteristic correction unit. The Office Action alleges that Sekine discloses this feature at column 4, lines 50 –56. This section of

Sekine teaches that an aberration correction performed by the lens characteristic correction unit includes interpolation between adjacent picture elements. This section of Sekine nor anywhere else in Sekine does it teach or suggest forming beforehand an image of a region larger than a photographic region confirmed by a photographer on the image sensor element. The interpolation in Sekine creates picture elements between adjacent picture elements, and is not related to enlarging a region of an image to be photographed on the image sensor element.

In the features recited in claim 14, a larger image is acquired on the image sensor element in expectation of the color deviation of the distortion as discussed on page 18, lines 17-20 in the specification and as illustrated in Figs. 3A to 3C of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that even if the aberration correction performed by the lens characteristic correction unit (fig. 2) in Sekine includes interpolation between adjacent picture elements, the teachings of Sekine do not disclose forming an image of a region larger than a photographic region confirmed by a photographer on the image sensor element.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is novel in view of the teachings of Sekine and also Yokota. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

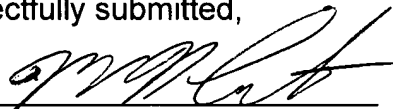
**CONCLUSION**

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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